

November 30, 1995

Mr. R. Phares
Director, Licensing
Clinton Power Station
P.O. Box 678
Clinton, IL 61727

Dear Mr. Phares:

This is in response to your letter of October 27, 1995, discussing Illinois Power's review of our Plant Performance Review and related inspection plan. In that letter, you also described your plans for conducting a safety system functional self-assessment of the Automatic Depressurization System (ADS) and requested credit for this effort in place of an NRC team inspection. We appreciate your initiative to conduct a self-assessment of the ADS and we will review the results of this effort as part of our overall effort to evaluate the performance of Clinton station. However, at this time there are no NRC planned team inspections for which the ADS self-assessment would be an appropriate replacement. Nonetheless, we believe this self-assessment to be a worthwhile effort on your part and encourage you to continue your initiative.

In the October 27, 1995 letter, you also noted your intention to perform an Engineering and Technical Support (E&TS) self-assessment and requested that it be used in lieu of the NRC's E&TS inspection planned for May 27, 1996. Again, we note your initiative in this area. However, Region III has not yet decided to expand the policy of allowing licensees to conduct self-assessments in lieu of NRC inspections into the E&TS area. The results of a recent pilot inspection in this regard will be reviewed to determine the appropriateness of extending the policy to E&TS inspections on a routine basis. Secondly, the May 1996 planned NRC E&TS inspection has been expanded to focus on Materiel Condition as well as Engineering in order to better ensure we have an accurate picture of performance in these areas at Clinton. For these reasons, we decline the request to have your E&TS self-assessment used in lieu of our inspection. Again, however, we encourage you to continue your initiative as it supports your overall plan for the Clinton station.

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These views were previously discussed by Mark Ring and Brent Clayton from Region III with Joe Miller, Clinton Engineering Manager. Please contact Mark at (708) 829-9703 or Brent at (708) 829-9602 if you have any questions on these subjects.

Sincerely,

/s/ G. E. Grant

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-461

- cc: J. Cook, Vice President
- R. Morgenstern, Plant Manager,
Clinton Power Station
- Nathan Schloss, Economist,
Office of the Attorney General
- K. K. Berry, Licensing Services
Manager, General Electric Company
- Chairman, DeWitt County Board
- State Liaison Officer
- Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission

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